



Scallop Photo by  
David Moynahan

# "The Eagle's Eye"

Edited by Lori Nicholson

## New Facilities at the Refuge!

The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge's newly renovated saltwater boat ramp near the lighthouse re-opened on Saturday, April 23, 2011.

The new ramp allows a divided launch of two vessels at the same time, plus a safety curb at the end of the ramp for runaways. Caution notices are posted to warn about possible trailer and propeller damage on the safety curb during low tide events. Make sure to consult tide charts before heading out.

Due to anticipated high use, please have boat loaded and ready to go when approaching the ramp.

A new handicapped accessible dock has also been completed at the East River Pool. This dock offers a new area for fishing and wildlife observation. Bring your family out and enjoy the view or do some fishing.

A \$5.00 daily entrance fee is required to enter the refuge. Visitors who use the refuge multiple times each year can benefit from the purchase of our \$15.00 annual pass, which allows you to come as many times as you want during that year.

Please call 850/925-6121 for more information. Check out the photo of the new Education building on page 6 and other photos on page 2 to see the new facilities.

## On The Inside

Pg. 2 Photo of new boat ramp  
Pg. 2 Photo of East River Dock  
Pg. 3 2011-2012 Hunt info.  
Pg. 4 Refuge Manager's Report  
Pg. 5 Photo Club Update  
Pg. 6 Environ. Educ. Update  
Pg. 7 Map of the St. Marks Unit  
Pg. 8 Calendar of Events  
Pg. 9 Nature Store Buzz  
Pg. 10. Focus On Nature

Pg. 11 Scallops  
Pg. 12 In Memory of John  
Pg. 13 Memory cont. from pg. 12  
Pg. 14 Association News Update

St. Marks NWR  
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P.O. Box 68 St. Marks, FL 32355  
(850) 925-6121  
<http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks>

# Salt Water Boat Ramp Open!



Photo by  
Lou Kellenberger

# New East River Dock

Photo by  
Lou Kellenberger



# 2011-2012 Refuge Quota Hunts

## 2011-12 St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Quota Hunts

Worksheets for the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge 2010-11 hunt season were available online at [www.myfwc.com/license/limited-entry-hunts](http://www.myfwc.com/license/limited-entry-hunts). Applications could also be submitted at any license agent or tax collectors office or on-line at [www.fl.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.fl.wildlifelicense.com) beginning **10:00a.m. (Eastern Time) May 3, 2011** through **11:59 (Eastern Time) June 9, 2011**.

Up to five hunters were allowed to apply as a group. Applicants may check the website after June 23rd for results. Permits not paid for by August 4<sup>th</sup> will be offered first come August 9<sup>th</sup>. For additional information, please call refuge staff at: (850) 925-6121

<b>St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Quota Hunts</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Hunt Number</b>	<b># Permits</b>
Fall Archery	Nov. 8-12, 2011	Panacea	7100	200
Fall Archery	Nov. 1-5, 2011	Wakulla	7101	200
General Gun	Dec. 16- 18, 2011	Panacea	7401	80
General Gun	Dec. 9-11, 2011	Wakulla	7400	150
Mobility-impaired Gun Hunt	Dec. 10- 12, 2011	Panacea/Buckhorn Creek	7300	15
Spring Gobbler	April 10- 14, 2012	Wakulla and Panacea		100
<b>Non-Quota Hunt</b>				
Small Game	Dec.26, 2011- Jan. 8, 2012	Wakulla and Panacea		Pick up-St. Marks Visitor Center after Sept. 1, 2011



The Education building seems to have stalled for a while, but should be moving along in June. We are still hoping for an August opening. Lori Nicholson is still working on gathering supplies for the building. If you would like to donate supplies or funds, you can do so through the St. Marks

Refuge Association (SMRA). A list of some needed items can be found on page 6.

Congressman Steve Southerland visited the refuge in April. Project Leader James Burnett gave him a tour of the refuge. James took good advantage of the visit to educate Representative Southerland about St. Marks NWR and the Refuge System.

The saltwater boat ramp was finally completed. We opened in April. We hope you enjoy the new ramp. Please be aware that the 6-inch curb you see around the sides and middle extends to the bottom of the ramp. Be careful with your trailers and motors.

East River has a new look also. The handicapped accessible fishing pier has been completed. I hope you can find some time to come out and enjoy it. There are lower handrails on portions of it to accommodate wheel chair users. It will also be great for younger users.

Several people from the refuge will be attending the Refuge Vision Conference in July. If you want to "attend" the conference, they will be providing some of it virtually. If you would like additional information on the Vision Conference you can go to

[americaswildlife.org](http://americaswildlife.org)

You can also provide comments at that site.

Welcome back John Cooper. John is back from Faulkner University to work as a Student Temporary Employment Program this summer. He will be assisting Maintenance Leader Dallas Beckett with maintenance of the public use facilities. He will be with us until August.

Student Cooperative Employment Program student Christina Legleu has also returned to the refuge. She will be working with two University of Florida employees to survey the gopher tortoise population.

### ***Visitor Information***

**Visitor Center** - The Refuge Visitor Center and office is located on County Rd 59, 3 miles south of U. S. Hwy 98 at Newport. Visit the displays describing Refuge wildlife and habitats and the Refuge Association bookstore.

**Entrance Fees** - Federal entrance fee passes apply (America the Beautiful, Senior, Access ) or daily car passes can be purchased for \$5. Annual passes include the St. Marks NWR Specific Pass and the current Federal Duck Stamp.

**Hours** - The Refuge is open daylight hours all year and the Visitor Center is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday; and 10:00 am till 5:00 pm weekends. Closed on most Federal holidays.

**Lighthouse Drive** - For casual observation, the 7-mile Lighthouse Road provides many excellent stopping points between the Visitor Center and the St Marks Lighthouse on Apalachee Bay. Please observe the posted speed limit.

**Restrooms** - At the Refuge Visitor Center, Tower Pond/Mounds Trail and at Otter Lake in Panacea.

**Picnic Facilities** - Next to Tower Pond Trail and at Otter Lake in Panacea.

**Hiking** - Fall, winter and early spring are the best times. Foot and bicycle traffic are allowed on trails. Maps are available at the toll booth, visitor center and information kiosks.

**Fishing** - Freshwater and saltwater fishing are available in certain areas of the refuge year round. Contact the Refuge for restrictions. Boat launching is permitted during daylight hours at the Lighthouse saltwater launching ramp.

**Hunting** - Hunting is permitted for resident game species in designated areas fall - spring. Contact the Refuge after May 1 for upcoming year's applications and permit information, or visit [www.fws.gov/saintmarks](http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks)

The photo club wants to hear from you. We are looking forward to having some of our fall meetings in the new Educational Building and we would like to know what you would be interested in learning. We will continue Photo Safari's but would like to have some Educational classes and speakers to mix things up. In the past we have held Photo Shop, Macro-photography, backyard photos, Alaska slide show and various speakers. Let us know what you would like us to bring back, or what's new on your list of things to do and see. Contact me at the following email address: [thomasd@talstar.com](mailto:thomasd@talstar.com) for comments or information on the club.

Don't forget there are still interesting things to photograph, even in the heat. Of course best times are early morning and late afternoon, just stay hydrated on those mid-day outings. Remember to take your equipment out of the hot cars.

We have gone on several photo safari's in the past months. Our May meeting was a wagon ride around Otter Lake and our fourth year annual picnic. We are welcoming new members all the time. Don't forget you do not have to be a regular member to come to any of the meetings, everyone is welcome. Third Saturday of the month at 9a.m. Check the

Refuge Association website for locations.

Summer outings and activities have slowed some due to the heat but come visit our photo display at the Leroy Collins Library in August. This years show is titled "Flora, Fauna and Landscapes of the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge"

Don't forget to visit our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/SMNWRPC>



Crabbing with a camera.  
Photo by  
Diane Flowers.

Summer is upon us, and almost all of the dates set aside for summer programs have been booked. We have had a wonderful year so far and I know it will get even better once the new education building is completed.

Speaking of the building, it is great to see the changes in it taking place daily. The windows are in and they are starting to complete the inside, and the boardwalk that will eventually connect the building to the parking lot is also underway. (See photo below which shows the boardwalk and front of the building). As with all major projects we have had a few delays, however, the opening is still slated for early fall, I will put out a news release for the open house.

Everyone is getting excited at the prospect of all it will offer to the refuge and the folks of all ages in the community. We will have all the programs that are open to the public listed on our website and in the newsletter, once the building is complete. We already have a course entitled "Creating Schoolyard Habitats and Outdoor Classrooms", from the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown VA, scheduled to take place in it in November of this

year. It is great that people from so far away realize the wonderful opportunities it will provide. And as an added bonus, course participants will be coming from all over the United States and we get to show them our little slice of Heaven, "St. Marks NWR and Wakulla County".

We have received wonderful donations so far of books and puppets. There are still lots of opportunities if you would like to make a donation toward any of the items listed below. They will be purchased through the SMRA and we can provide you a tax donation letter if you like.

I look forward to seeing you all in the fall at our open house!

### **Items still needed for the Education Building.**

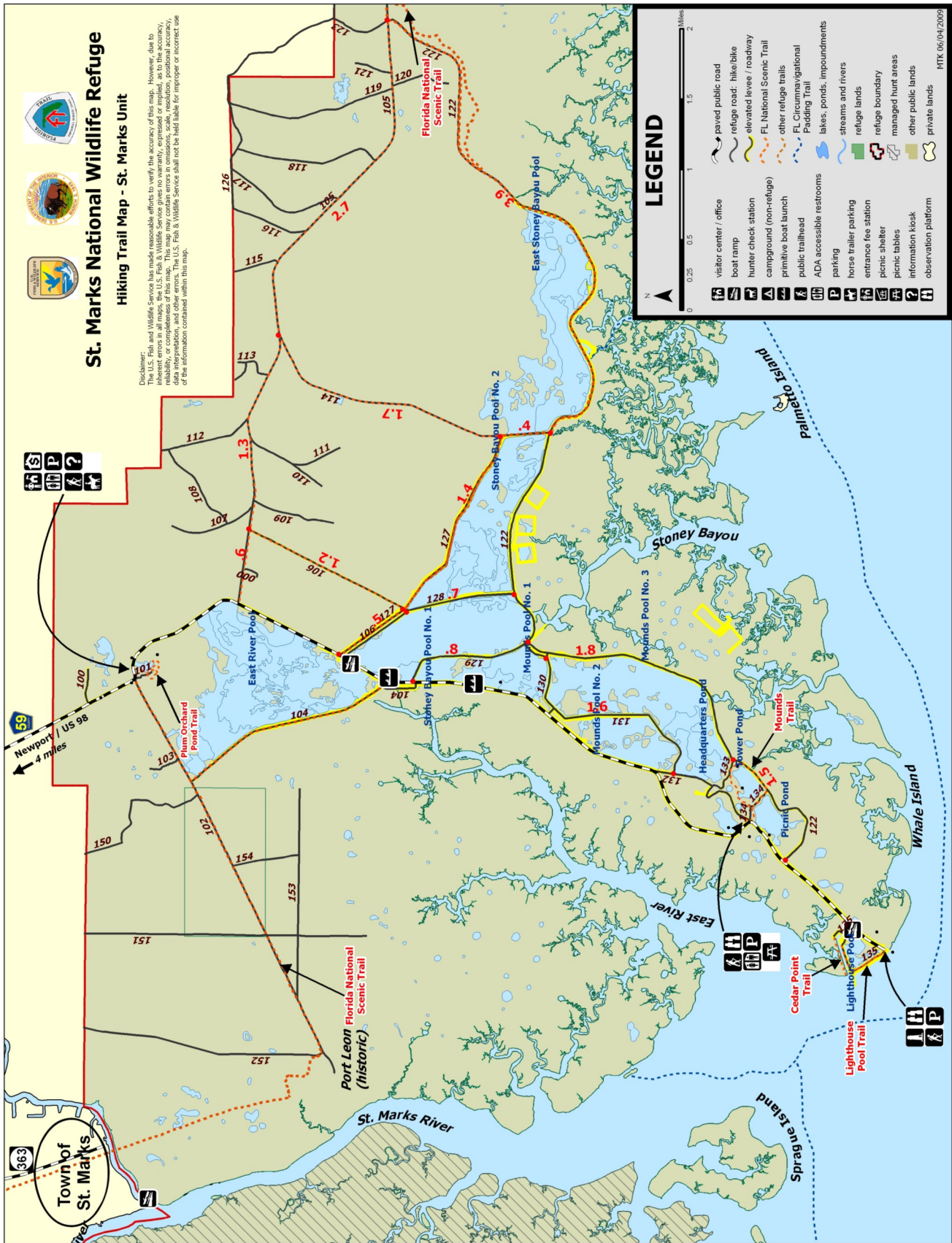
- \*Realistic wildlife puppets
- \*Hanging bird feeders...
- \*10 Dell laptop computers

- \*10 Dip nets ...
- \*10 Viewing buckets.....
- \*Children's books and Taxidermy specimens ...call for more info.
- \*Wind meters
- \*First aid kits
- \*Hand Held Magnifying lenses
- \*Dissecting microscopes
- \*Camera for microscopes
- \*Tabletop tripod magnifier
- \*Pocket microscopes
- \*Field Thermometers (non-mercury)
- \*Silva Starter Compasses
- \*Kestrel weather stations
- \*Sling psychrometers (and replacement thermometers.)
- \*Chairs
- \*Shoe scrapers for each door. (3)
- \*Display cabinets/shelves
- \*Craft supplies





# St. Marks Map with Trails



# Calendar of Events – Summer and Fall 2011

Please call 850-925-6121 for Reservations & Updated Information

## June 2011

**Sat. June 18 – St. Marks NWR Photo Club Meeting** – 9 a.m. until noon. Contact Photo Club President Tom Darragh at [thomasd@talstar.com](mailto:thomasd@talstar.com)

**Tues. June 21-** Fee Free for first day of Summer (Dept. of Interior)

**Sat. June 25** – Scallop season begins.

## July 2011

**Sat. July 2 – Wildlife Photo Class** 9 a.m.– Ranger Barney Parker – call 850/925-6121 to make reservations.

**Mon. July 4** – HOL IDAY – Visitor Center closed.

**Sat. July 16 – St. Marks NWR Photo Club Meeting** – 9 a.m. until noon. Contact Photo Club President Tom Darragh at [thomasd@talstar.com](mailto:thomasd@talstar.com)

## August 2011

**Sat. Aug. 6 – Wildlife Photo Class** 9 a.m.– Ranger Barney Parker – call 850/925-6121 to make reservations.

**Fri. Aug. 12 – Proposed Grand Opening of EE Building** for local educators and dignitaries; **Sat. Aug. 13** – Grand opening for general public. *Check with Visitor Center after August 1 to verify date.*

**Sat. Aug. 20 – St. Marks NWR Photo Club Meeting** – 9 a.m. until noon. Contact Photo Club President Tom Darragh at [thomasd@talstar.com](mailto:thomasd@talstar.com)

## September

**Sat. Sept. 3 - Wildlife Photo Class** 9 a.m.– Ranger Barney Parker – call 850/925-6121 to make reservations.

**Thurs. Sept. 8 - TOTS on TRAILS** Meet at 11:00 a.m. Education building. Emphasis on introducing children to nature safety. *Registration required.*

**Sat. Sept 17 - St. Marks NWR Photo Club Meeting** – 9 a.m. until noon. Contact Photo Club President Tom Darragh at [thomasd@talstar.com](mailto:thomasd@talstar.com)

**Sat. Sept. 17– Keep Wakulla Beautiful Coastal Cleanup**

**Sept. 24-30 Take a Child Outside Week!** Spend time with your children outside this week.

**Sat. Sept. 24 - Pancake Breakfast** at the new Education Building 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**Sat. Sept. 24 – Take A Child Outside Day, Families in Nature kick-off;** - Meet at the Education Building area for Snacks, Drinks, and Games! 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Hints for

### Enjoying Your Visit

#### Take Your Binoculars

Binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras will help you get a close-up view of wildlife without disturbing them. Look for wildlife up in the trees and the sky as well as in the roadside pools.

#### Bring Your Field Guides

Guide books will assist you in identifying the more common north Florida native flora and fauna.

#### Start early and stay late

Mammals and birds are more active during the early morning and late afternoon hours.

#### Observe carefully

Be aware of potential dangers, snakes, poison ivy, etc. Observe common-sense rules with bears and alligators, don't get too close. Remember feeding alligators as well as all wildlife is prohibited.

#### Dress appropriately

Bring insect repellent, sunscreen, proper hiking shoes and socks. Wear weather appropriate clothing.

#### Food

Other than chocolate bars, food is not for sale at the refuge, make sure to bring snacks or plan to visit nearby restaurants.



If you haven't been in the Nature Store recently you probably haven't seen the new ***Crossley ID Guide to Eastern Birds***. It is unique in that multiple photographs of each bird have been placed in a picture of the habitat where the bird is most likely seen. The various views of each bird are sure to help the novice birder and even those quite knowledgeable. It's on the expensive side, but I think, well worth the money.

Remember, we also have many wonderful children's books covering topics on birding, animals, the environment and ecology. One unusual book is the ***Under the Sea Jigsaw Book***. This colorful and realistically illustrated book contains six jigsaw puzzles (in the book) depicting sea animals such

as sharks, fish, dolphins, and corals. The author also provides information about the animals in the book.

If you're traveling with children this summer you might like the set of cards titled ***52 Fun Things to do in the Car*** – guessing games, sightseeing challenges, tongue twisters, riddles, etc.!

### **Online Shopping Reminder:**

Please use **GoodSearch.com**, a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates part of its advertising revenue: You must choose St. Marks Refuge Association for us to receive the donation.

When you shop online please use **GoodShop.com**. All the usual favorite sites can be accessed through GoodShop and a percentage of your purchases will be donated to your charity of choice – St. Marks Refuge Association of course!

**St. Marks Refuge Association, Inc., is a non-profit all volunteer organization.**

**Profits support educational and biological programs of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.**

***Association members receive a 10% discount on bookstore purchases.***

**Visit the refuge association's website at  
<http://www.stmarksrefuge.org>**

## **REFUGE REGULATIONS**

**Please don't Litter** Help keep your refuge clean!

**Enclosed Cooking Fires** are permitted in designated picnic areas only. Open fires are not permitted.

**Pets** must be on a leash and under control of owners at all times.

**Collecting** or taking of artifacts, natural features, animals or plants on government property is prohibited.

**Fireworks** are prohibited.

It rained the day I attended Dr. Loren Anderson's wild flower walk. Even though it was cut short by a thunderstorm, it was both enjoyable and very interesting. I believe he knows more about botany than anyone I have ever met. We are lucky to have him, giving us his time and valuable expertise in the field. I have included some photos so you can see him in action. His help and expertise as a volunteer at the refuge is greatly appreciated. Thank you Dr. Anderson. During our tour, in a short period of time, he showed us the native plants that were found in the area and the flowers that bloomed on them. We walked in the upland piney woods of the refuge until the bottom fell out of the rain clouds. The photos to the right show some of the examples we were shown by Dr. Anderson.

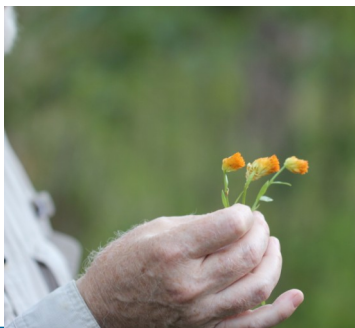
When the new education center is completed, we are planning many activities for the students and adults. Dr. Anderson will be a valuable contributor to our educational mission. My digital photography class for adults/families will be taught in the new education building the first Saturday of each month. Check the calendar of events for details.



Dr. Anderson shows an example of Lizard tail to onlookers.



Dr. Anderson introduces the interested group to Duck Potato



Candy weed

A fine example of  
Horse Nettle





A dry Winter and Spring has directly affected the water flow of the local rivers that feed Apalachee Bay. When this occurs, we usually have an abundance of Scallops in gulf waters from Port St. Joe to Cedar Keys. The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Saltwater boat ramp offers the most efficient access, cost wise and mileage, to the East Flats of Apalachee Bay.



Photo of scallops by David Moynahan

**The Trip-** A suggested minimum of a fourteen foot aluminum or fiberglass boat with an appropriate size outboard motor will get you out there. Make sure you test the motor and check all Coast Guard required safety gear

(life jackets, whistle, etc.) before leaving home, an anchor is very important. Beware of thunderstorms, winds, tides, and weather predictions. Bring drinking water, sunscreen, snorkel gear, mesh bags, and one gallon or pint measuring device.

**The Rules-** Pay the refuge entrance fee at the Toll Booth, or self pay station (\$5). Be courteous of others as you unload or load your boat on **your side** of the double launch ramp. Recreational harvesters are limited to two gallons of whole bay scallops in the shell, or one pint of bay scallop

meat, per day during the open season. The boat limit is 10 gallons whole or ½ gallon shucked. All scallop harvesters need a Florida saltwater fishing license. Law Enforcement Officers will be patrolling to ensure safety and resource compliance.

## The Meal- Scallop Scampi

\*Boil ¾ pound of Linguine Pasta in water with 1 TBS of salt and olive oil, about 10 minutes

\*In a heavy 12 inch or larger skillet, over medium low heat, melt 3 TBS butter then add 3 TBS olive oil

\*Add 4 cloves of crushed and diced garlic for 1 minute, don't burn! Add one pound or two pints of fresh scallop meat, 1 or 2 teaspoons of salt and black pepper to taste.

\*Saute' three or four minutes, the meat will just turn off-white, remove from heat.

\*Add 1/3 cup chopped parsley, zest of ½ lemon, juice of two squeezed lemons (can substitute some dry white wine), 1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes, toss to combine.

\*Drain pasta well, add scallops, toss well, and serve.



The Refuge lost a dear friend and colleague on March 30th with the death of Ranger John McKenzie. He was well liked and greatly respected by staff, volunteers and visitors alike. John worked weekends, when he ran the toll booth. He collected fees, of course, but he also provided interpretive information to visitors' and fielded questions on topics ranging from where to see eagles to which fish were biting. John was undoubtedly the best known of all the Rangers to the public, since he was the face of the Refuge seen by so many of our visitors.

John McKenzie graduated from high school in West Palm Beach in 1967, and then earned an AA in Dental Technology at Palm Beach Junior College. Sometime thereafter, he was drawn to the Florida panhandle and a focus on environmental work.

For about as many years as John worked at the Refuge - 8 - he also worked for the Florida Division of Forestry. During weekday afternoons, he sat about 100 feet above US-98 in the Newport Fire Tower, watching for wildfires across Wakulla County. He also gave tours and gave Smokey Bear presentations to children. At some point, John's love of the environment also brought him to work at Wakulla Springs State Park in a variety of capacities, from tour guide to lifeguard.

John's effectiveness in dealing with visitors to the Saint Marks NWR came from his deep and

abiding love of the Refuge, and the enthusiasm he showed when he talked about this place, but also from knowing his stuff. For example, John routinely came to the Refuge early on weekend days so he could ride down to the lighthouse and see what was around, and thus be well prepared to advise visitors about what they might look for that day. He also liked to come down to the Refuge during the week, park by the lighthouse or elsewhere to read, and just let the peace of this place wash life's daily stresses away.

John is survived by his daughter Gabrielle and grandson Layne. Family was very important to John, and it has been evident since his death that he also had a substantial extended family of friends. John related well to people across generations, and was a very accepting person. His gentleness, and the sparkle in his eye and friendly smile, made him an easy person to be with.

One of John's friends noted that he was "generous to a fault." I experienced that in a small way involving a hat. One weekend, instead of the broad-brimmed ranger hat that he normally wore at the toll booth, John wore a special ball cap on his head which said "May The Forest Be With You." As usual, I stopped briefly to visit as I passed through, and I expressed my admiration for his hat and the *Star Wars* reference. He told me he thought they might be for sale in the Visitor's Center - they weren't, and I had forgotten about it until the

next time I saw John when he asked me, and I told him they weren't available. All he said at the time was his standard "Oh well" and we both went about our business. A week or so later, John left his freshly washed hat for me at the Visitor's Center.

As I drive through the refuge entrance today, I try to think not of the tragedy of John's death, but rather of the peace and beauty of the refuge, and of its therapeutic value that John so deeply appreciated.

*As John would wish, may the forest be with us all.*



John, Layne and Gabby with the Blue Goose  
Photo by Terry Parker

# In Memory of John McKenzie 12-19-1948 to 3-30-2011



John, greeting folks at the toll booth.  
Photo by Nick Baldwin



John and grandson Layne,  
Photo by Terry Parker.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 68  
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(850) 925-6121  
<http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks>  
[www.stmarksrefuge.org](http://www.stmarksrefuge.org)

## Association News Update

Gail Fishman

### Sign up for membership

### ST. MARKS REFUGE ASSOCIATION

#### PLEASE CHECK MEMBERSHIP



◇ Individual/Family	\$ 25.00
◇ Organization	\$ 50.00
◇ Senior (over 62)	\$ 20.00
◇ Supporting	\$ 50.00
◇ Student (under 16)	\$ 5.00
◇ Class	\$ 10.00
◇ Life	\$250.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (office): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift membership Y / N:      Or Memorial      Y / N

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer is upon us and it looks like a long, hot, dry spell. Nonetheless, the flowers are blooming and wild-life carry on their lives. Early morning and late evening are the best times for viewing wildlife rather than in the mid-day heat.

The new boat ramp is open. The new fishing pier in the East River is open. Work on the Education Center continues and we anticipate that a host of school children will take full advantage of this wonderful new building come fall. Additionally we are planning a series of weekend or evening programs about our area's history and culture for adults.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold their Vision Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, in July. A representative from the Association will attend to network with other friends and FWS staff, and to attend some of the innovative presentations that are planned. This conference will lay out the future plan for refuges and we don't want to miss this opportunity to be a part of the process.

Don't let the heat deter a visit to St. Marks Refuge. Just bring plenty of cold water, sunscreen, bug spray, binoculars, camera, and fishing rod. I understand that the lack of rain means clear water in Apalachee Bay and that portends an excellent scalloping season. Come see us and visit the Nature Store – profits from your purchases go to support visitor services and biological and educational programs on St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

President SMRA, Gail Fishman

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